



# ***News Release***

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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### **Middlefield Business Selected as U.S. Small Business Administration 2006 Family-Owned Business of the Year**

**Middlefield** - The U.S. Small Business Administration selected Enfield resident Diane Weaver Dunne, Senior Reporter for the Hartford Business Journal as the 2006 Small Business Journalist of the Year. The Hartford Business Journal (HBJ) is a weekly business-to-business publication covering Central Connecticut's small business community. The HBJ is known for delivering the hard news, commentary and opinion that local business decision maker's look for and for 5 years Diane has been helping to keep up with their reputation as she covers many topics to inspire and arm small businesses with knowledge, strategies, and hard facts.

Some evaluation criteria judged by those nominated in this category are, a concerted effort to increase public understanding of the importance of small business contributions to the economy, and contribution of news and feature stories, etc that highlight and analyze small business issues. Diane' reporting offers real life examples of successful entrepreneurs. From hot dog vendors, restaurant owners and beauty school owners, her use of business intuition results in deeper connection with her readers. Diane's questioning style, allows her to dig into areas that will resonate with the entrepreneur. Her search for the positive outlook, passion for the small business community, and her understanding of the entrepreneurial spirit allows her to connect to the heart of her readers.

Through her various leadership activities in the community, Diane understands that individual acts can make a difference to the community as a whole. Because of this belief and as a reporter, she writes articles about business leaders who make a difference in the region through acts of kindness, charitable giving or volunteerism, or involvement in community organizations.

A native of Enfield, Connecticut, Diane lives in the same town where she was raised, and has been active in various community activities over the years. In 1998, she founded a scholarship fund for Fermi High School varsity soccer players pursuing a college education. That program continues today. Diane also initiated and organized a local beautification program in 1997 where Fermi High School athletes cleaned up the high school grounds planted mums, and flower bulbs in the fall. Diane also co-chaired s neighborhood fundraising campaign to establish a park called Wallop School Park, in the southwest corner of Enfield.

In addition, Diane has written for the Hartford Courant, Imprint Newspapers and the Connecticut Law Tribune, and earlier worked as news editor for Education World, a Web magazine. Diane also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Hartford, teaching communication.

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*An award celebration for the SBA 2006 award recipients will be held Thursday June 15, 2006 at 4:00p.m. at The Belvedere, New Haven CT, for more information contact Greta Johansson at (860) or 240-4672 Hugh Curley at (860) 240-4650.*

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